

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Borland et al. (US 5,474,104).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for feeding a high-purity ammonia gas, comprising a sealing part and/or a gas contacting part, which comprise a halogen-free resin selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin resin, a phenol resin, a xylene resin, a polyphenylene sulfide resin, a polyether ether ketone resin and a polyimide resin.

Basically, the Examiner asserts that Borland discloses an apparatus having a sealing part and/or a gas contacting part 66 or 42, which is a halogen-free polyimide resin (Vespel is a polyimide and does not cite having a halogen, and thus is halogen-free (see Graham (US 6,111,329), which states "polyimides are known for... their halogen-free structure").

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, it is respectfully submitted that Borland does not disclose a polyimide resin. That is, Borland discloses the use of polyamide as opposed to polyimide, which is claimed. The Examiner asserts that Vespel is a polyimide based on Graham. However, Borland discloses the use of Vespel polyamides and specifically teaches "a resilient polymer such as **polyamide** (for example Vespel)". In addition, there is no mention in Vespel regarding the use of a polyimide. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that because Graham may use a Vespel polyimide does not alter the explicit teaching in Borland regarding the use of a Vespel polyamide.

Hence, for at least the above reason, it is respectfully submitted that Borland does not anticipate claim 1.

In addition, claims 2 and 4-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beaver et al. (US 5,149,105) in view of Borland et al. (US 5,474,104).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner asserts recognizes that Beaver does not disclose the claimed halogen-free resin and relies on Borland as teaching a polyimide resin. However, as discussed above, Borland discloses a polyamide, but does not disclose a polyimide resin. Thus, Borland does not make up for the deficiencies of Beaver.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Beaver and Borland fail to teach or suggest the present invention according to claim 1.

In addition, claims 2 and 4-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Response to Rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Borland et al. (US 5,474,104) in view of Floh et al. (US 2004/0045605).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Response to Rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beaver et al. (US 5,149,105), in view of Borland and in further view of Floh et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

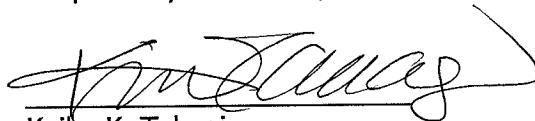
V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-10 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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